Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-009
Thursday
14 January 1988

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Cuba

Museveni Speaks on Domestic Priorities

FL131705 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1245 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Interview with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni by Freida Garcia at Havana's Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute; date not given—recorded; Museveni speaking in English fading into consecutive Spanish translation]

[Text] [Garcia] What are the main tasks the Ugandan Government and people will tackle this year aimed at national reconstruction?

[Museveni] The main tasks? Oh! [Laughter] There are many: first of all, agriculture. Then, transport for fruits and raw material to bring them from towns to cities; commodities from towns to cities. We do not have a food shortage in Uganda. We have much even though we are still disorganized; but because of the natural fertility of the land we have a lot of food and even export crops such as coffee. We are number five in coffee production. The problem is how to collect the crops and transport them from the communities where they are grown. This means acquiring trucks and repairing roads. Those are priorities number two and number three; the trucks and the roads. We also need factories to make basic goods for public consumption. That is number four. Number five is utilities such as electricity and water for industrial use, first and foremost, before we talk about water for people. Then comes food storage. We lose a lot of crops for lack of preservation and, of course, storage. Then we must develop the construction industry, constructing roads and housing and other public works for industries. These are our priorities.

[Garcia] Referring to the international scene, how do you characterize the current situation of the South African racist regime?

[Museveni] The South African regime is facing a big crisis. The regime is very weak. The African people of South Africa have begun an insurrection which has sustained itself now for more than a year. The current situation has brought us a lot of optimism. The revolutions in the world need to give more determined support to the freedom fighters in South Africa. The balance of force is in our favour in spite of the arrogance of the South African racist regime. The regime looks stronger but it actually has clay feet. So, I am optimistic. How about you?

[Garcia] Very well, thank you very much, Mr President.

Tours Livestock Center

FL131520 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has accompanied Yoweri Museveni, president of Uganda and of the National Resistance Council, on a tour through Los Naranjos Livestock Breeding Enterprise in Havana Province. Jose Gonzalez, director of the enterprise, welcomed the distinguished guest and his delegation and gave them a detailed explanation of the enterprise's objectives. The center is involved in milk production, stud farming, and genetic breeding. Later, they visited dairy No 1, which is the first one in the country with air conditioned milking rooms; the stud center; and other dairies in the enterprise. They also visited a sheep-breeding installation. There they chatted with students attending the Ernesto Guevara IPUEC [Preuniversity Institute in the Countryside].

The Ugandan president had previously visited the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. He was accompanied by Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo. Dr Manuel Limonta, director of the center, explained to the African statesman the organization of the institution and the scientific importance of the work being conducted there. Museveni was very interested in the information and asked numerous questions on scientific development, the center's perspective, and the modern equipment there. Museveni and those who accompanied him toured several installations where laboratories and research centers are located.

Another place visited by the Ugandan president was Havana's Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, where he learned about the services provided in that facility. Museveni was interested in the response of heart transplant patients. He inspected high-technology diagnostic equipment at the nuclear magnetic resonance room. At this time, he was accompanied by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

Malmierca Meets With Ugandan Foreign Minister

FL130423 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli today received his Ugandan counterpart Ibrahim Mukiibi.

They discussed matters related to mutual cooperation in several areas, as well as the international situation, especially the current situation in the southern cone of Africa.

Risquet Meets With Spanish Senate President

FL131822 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes has received Spanish Senate President Jose Federico Carvajal and his delegation at Central Committee Headquarters.

Risquet expressed his satisfaction over the Senate's decision to confer its Gold Medal on Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. He also thanked the Senate members who make up the delegation for their gesture in spite of their country's reactionary press campaign.

The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere during which bilateral relations and the current international situation were broached.

The visit ended with the presentation by Senator Carvajal, on behalf of the whole delegation, of a copy of the Spanish Constitution in microprint .

Carvajal Receives Medal

FL131605 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Jose Federico Carvajal, president of the Spanish Parliament, has received the gold insignia recognizing him as an illustrious guest of Havana. Pedro Chavez, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government in City of Havana Province, bestowed the decoration on the distinguished visitor. That honor was given to Mr Carvajal for his long track record and dedication, his personality, and the role he has played in the Human Rights League. Pedro Chavez noted that: For all these reasons we greatly appreciate his visit to Cuba which will bring the parliaments together, allow closer relations, and strengthen even more friendship and cooperation ties between the two countries.

After the ceremony, Eusebio Leal explained to the Spanish Parliament member what is being done in the city's historic center, its characteristics, and future.

Ambassadors to United Nations Arrive for Visit

FL121620 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] A group of ambassadors accredited to the United Nations has arrived in Cuba at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. Mr (Kofi Anan), under secretary general of the United Nations, is among the visitors. The diplomats will be received here by leaders of the Cuban Government and state and will visit places of social and political interest.

Grenada

Opposition Criticises Caricom Meeting on Haiti

FL091432 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 8, CANA—The opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) here has criticised the position adopted by Caribbean leaders on Haiti at an emergency meeting in Barbados on Wednesday. The NDC, in a press release issued on Friday, said the conference proved to be a "great disappointment". The party which is headed by former Government Minister George Brizan, accused regional leaders of compromising their stand since they are now willing to hold dialogue with the Haitian interim government of General Henri Namphy. "We hope that the international community will be more sympathetic to the needs of the Haitian people than our Caribbean leaders," it said.

The informal meeting attended by 11 of the 13 Caricom countries ended with a communique calling on Haiti to reform its electoral system to eliminate offending features in time for the January 17 poll.

The NDC said that it was convinced that strong action was not taken at the conference against Haiti because of the visit paid to that country last month by five Caribbean heads led by Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica.

"Concessions obviously had to be made in order to preserve a symbol of unity," the party said.

Haiti

CED Communique; Bazin on Elections

FL132337 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 13 Jan 88

[All passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Committee for Democratic Agreement's [CED] latest communique is entitled: The Report Cards Issued by the National Government Council's [CNG] Provisional Electoral Council [CEP]—Who Do They Think They're Fooling?

The CED feels that the so-called elimination of Duvalierists by the CEP raises more questions than it answers and just serves to confirm the opinion the elections scheduled for Sunday are a farce in which the majority of the Haitian people will not participate.

Wondering about the authorities' attitude on the CEP's decision to not allow Duvalierists to run, the CED writes, and I quote: Wasn't it General Namphy himself who, speaking to LIBERATION [French newspaper] expressed indignation over the fact that notorious Duvalierists had not been allowed to run for office by the first CEP and found the barbaric reaction of 29 November perfectly justified?

The CED wonders if the general has changed his mind. If the answer is yes, the CED says, then the general is admitting that the unconstitutionally dismissed CEP was right; and he had no reason to allow the 29 November massacre to happen.

Further on, the CED says it thinks the Haitian people have properly understood the Duvalierist's exit from the scene is a false exit, for which they will be rewarded in some unknown way.

They think the future president has already been chosen and a simple glance at the list of candidates to the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, most of them macoutes, already provides a profile of the future prime minister.

In its communique, the CED says it thinks the road to democracy, justice, and progress does not begin with 17 January. That date leads to a return to the past, to macoutism, tyranny, and stagnation.

For his part, Marc Bazin, who is president of the Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] and a member of the CED, speaks of the apparent elimination of old-time Duvalierist candidates. Bazin says it looks as if a bargain has been struck and the Haitian people unfortunately do not know the terms of the bargain. He (?seriously questions) the credibility of the 17 January elections. Bazin answers questions from Richard Widmaier.

[Bazin] "I feel that the decision to eliminate—at least the appearance of eliminating—the Duvalierists from the race raises many more questions than it answers and confirms my worst misgivings.

"The first question this decision raises is how the president of the CNG is going to live with a decision he himself criticized when it was made by the first CEP. Now, we know the CEP of January 1988 is a creation, a pure and simple emanation, of the CNG.

"Secondly, remember that General Namphy expressed indignation over the fact that the Duvalierists had been prohibited from running for office. He even found that the Duvalierists reaction on 29 November was almost a response of legitimate, political self-defense. So the question which again arises is: Why is what was true yesterday no longer true today? This is why I say apparent elimination, because it looks as if a bargain has been struck and the Haitian people are not familiar with its terms.

"Furthermore, when one thinks about it, there is something noticeable. The Duvalierists have allegedly been eliminated from the race. Of course, there is still the verdict of the Court of Cassation, about which we know nothing. And there is also the fact people who killed, massacred, and drowned the hopes for democracy in a bloodbath on 29 November, have not been identified, arrested, or tried. In other words, this clear lack of action against the perpetrators of the 29 November incidents raises considerable doubt as to how serious they are about this alleged elimination. It makes us wonder how secure people in Haiti would really be if for one reason or another the terms of the agreement reached were to be called into question again by one of the parties."

[Widmaier] "Mr Bazin, do you think there will be elections on 17 January?"

[Bazin] "Electoral proceedings, perhaps. I mean there will be a semblance of elections, in any case. There will be polling stations, ballot boxes, certain candidates will or will not have ballots. Unfortunate voters will be carted around in trucks to plunge their fingers in innumerable ink bottles. But is that what we want? Is that the kind of election the Haitian people want? I seriously doubt it.

"What really struck everyone on 29 November was the determination with which the Haitians went to the polls on that Sunday morning. For 2 months, without respite, everything was done to terrorize them, to discourage them from thinking elections could be held. On the eve of 29 November, you could hear machineguns and explosions all over Port-au-Prince; and despite all this, these people, who had never voted in their lives, understood that their fate depended on that ballot; and the immense majority decided to take any and all risks to (?vote).

"If that is what they are expecting for next Sunday, 17 January, I think they can forget it, because I know a huge majority of these very same people do not want to hear anything about the 17 January masquerade."

[Widmaier] "For the time being, it looks as if there will be little participation in these elections. There will be voluntary abstentions for political reasons, psychological trauma due to the events of 29 November. Whatever the case, if only 1 percent of the population participates in these elections, will they be valid, from a Constitutional point of view? And what do you think the reaction of foreign countries, such as the United States, France, and Canada will be?"

[Bazin] "From a constitutional point of view: yes, why not? From a political point of view, however, it would most certainly be catastrophic for a government to try to govern a country with only 1 percent of the voters having participated in choosing it. If you take the position of governing with such an infinitesimal fraction of the electorate, this means you have turned your back on democracy once and for all, that democracy is just an empty word, that the consent of the governed is not necessary, and that officially, from the very beginning, you are taking a hard line.

"In reference to the reaction of foreign governments, based on what I am seeing up to the present, it looks to me like the Americans are perfectly willing to live with a semblance of a president, a semblance of an election, as long as it enables them to save face."

The CED also addresses itself to the candidates who have agreed to participate in the 17 January elections, saying: To those who, out of frenzied ambition, inordinate pride, or naivete insist on waging, drearily, a diffident and pointless campaign we say: Democracy is not built together with those who practice contempt for life; nor justice with those who are greedy for privileges;

nor progress with the supporters of an aberrant and contemptible system which, after 30 years, is synonymous with abject poverty, terror, and humiliation.

That was the communique issued on 12 January, yesterday, by the CED, which is made up of four political parties: the Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti, the National Concerted Action Front, The Haitian Christian Democratic Party, and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party.

Minor Macoutes Ask for Election Boycott

FL132135 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] In Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, the Association of Minor, Innocent Macoutes [Asosyasyon Ti Makout Inosan] is denouncing Prefect (Baguidy Grand-Pierre):

We former militiamen and agents of the prefecture in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite denounce Prefect (Baguidy Grand-Pierre's) new criminal plan to assassinate democrats in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite. This is like the time he offered us money and revolvers to execute Eng Dejean Belizaire, Raymond Toussaint, citizen Chantal Joseph, (Meryse Dorlisme), (Emmanuel Derilus), and other members of the National Concerted Action Front.

We say no, this won't happen here again. In 1966, (Baguidy) was the reason many people lost their lives in Petite Riviere. The bigshots are using us to fight their battles for them again. We are always the victims. When Jean-Claude left, it was minor militiamen they killed, burned, and hacked to pieces with machetes. The major macoutes ran to hide in the National Palace.

In order to spoil the 29 November elections, (Baguidy) used us, together with (Fabe), (Ica), (Delva), and others. Once again, we were the ones the Army shot at. (Fabe) was killed. (Ika) was seriously wounded. (Baguidy) is using us to pay off debts.

We say no. We will not die for bigshots and major macoutes anymore. We were minor militiamen, minor macoutes. We don't want a return of the macoute regime. That is why we are asking all minor militiamen like ourselves, everyone in Petite Riviere, and the entire Haitian people—everyone who wants a change—to not participate in the 17 January masquerade.

Group Asks People To Stay Home 16-18 Jan

FL141400 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] In connection with the elections, the Committee for the Defense and Promotion of the Young asks the Haitian people and youth to become more aware in order to preserve the dignity of the fatherland and to leave the traditional elites to organize their 17 January masquerade all by themselves.

The committee asks all the Protestant and Catholic Churches to stop holding religious services as of Saturday, until Tuesday, 19 January 1988, to avoid another massacre like that of 29 November.

The committee asks the Haitian people to stay at home as of Saturday 16, until Monday and to resume its activities on the 18th.

Without an act of faith, without courage, the gains of 7 February will be lost, concludes the communique from this youth committee.

Priest Reports Unsuccessful Attack by Gunman

FL132227 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Here is a statement from Father Gabriel Bien-Aime. On Saturday, 9 January, at approximately 0900, he was attacked by an armed individual on Rue Lamarre, near the Capitol movie theater. Father Gabriel will tell us exactly what happened:

[Reporter] Gabriel Bien-Aime, can you explain to the listeners what happened to you over the weekend?

[Father Gabriel] Well, Saturday morning, at approximately 0900, I was on Rue Lamarre. I was talking to a friend. The friend left, and as I went to start my car, an unidentified man, mad as hell, flew at me with a revolver in his hand, to kill me. When I saw this, I automatically reacted by opening the car door, hitting him with it. The blow knocked the revolver out of his hand. He ran to pick it up. As he did, I stepped on the accelerator and fled.

I fled, but witnesses told me he was with another person in a vehicle without license plates and they said the men also sped away. That is what happened.

[Reporter] Where were you on Rue Lamarre, exactly?

[Father Gabriel] Near the Capitol movie theater, not far from Radio Soleil. There were approximately 15 people there. They yelled. This alerted me and I managed to hit him with the car door, knocking the gun from his hand. That is how I escaped.

[Reporter] What time did this happen?

[Father Gabriel] Around 9 o'clock.

[Reporter] In the evening?

[Father Gabriel] At 0900. Now they are operating in broad daylight. This was not done discreetly, but in broad daylight. They plan to eliminate everyone who is in the habit of lifting his head, everyone who is helping the people understand, helping them figure out what is going on. They plan to eliminate all such people. I was only a little pawn in their plan.

[Reporter] What did you do after that?

[Father Gabriel] Nothing. I did inform people who work with me, so that they, too, can take precautions. I did not want to frighten them; on the contrary, I wanted to alert them so they could take precautions, be more cautious. We must take measures so such things will not ever happen again. [passage omitted]

Citizens Arrested for Anti-Election Acts
FL140026 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Excerpt] In a news release, the Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations, FEDKA, has protested the abusive arrests and heavy-handed actions of the Army in the Grande Anse area to force people to participate in the 17 January masquerade. Not too long ago, they went to (Fon Zikat), a rural section of Corail, because the peasants declared they would not budge on 17 January.

Now they have lunged at Jeremie, in order to effect another 1964. They arrested (Hebre Michel) and (Mario Dominique), two members of the Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations of the Grande Anse, Fekokag, for allegedly campaigning against elections. [passage omitted]

Government Announces New Tax Increases
FL131406 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The Haitian Government announced a number of tax increases. These include a 1-percent increase on all imported products, a $3 increase in the cost of a passport, a 1-percent increase in all utility and telephone bills. These are effective upon publication of the decree. These are the first signs of economic constraints following the suspension of aid to Haiti by Canada, the United States, and France.

Election Situation in Jacmel Uncertain
FL122352 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Report by Jacmel correspondent (Pierre Nazon Boliere])

[Text] As regards elections, Jacmel is still very calm. Everyone is going about his business.

All vehicles going to and from Port-au-Prince and coming to Jacmel have been systematically searched since last week. All passengers and baggage are searched.

Still in connection with elections, many people see the business of rejecting well-known Duvalierist candidates as a desire to show that the government has a certain amount of credibility for the 17 January elections. Others think this rejection of candidacies is a guarantee for the national reconciliation that everyone is seeking. Still others say they think they still cannot, up to the present, believe in what is being done. They are wondering if it is a serious measure.

Others are wondering if there will really be elections on 17 January because in Jacmel (?there is no talk of) polling stations at all. Where are the people going to vote? If there are a lot of voters, especially among the peasants, where are they going to vote? People still don't know.

In reference to the schools, as you know, they should have opened yesterday, 11 January, according to the Education Ministry's calendar, but they did not open in Jacmel. The schools were open, and the teachers were there; but the students did not attend, except for a private school, [name indistinct], a school headed by a Frenchman and connected with a French lay mission. It was open, but was not functioning well. The students did not wear uniforms to school. A few schools (?run by priests and nuns) opened today, and the teachers were present, but very few students attended.

There were some arrests in Cayes Jacmel over the weekend. Four Foster Parents Plan employees were arrested: Joseph Jean-Jacques, Marie Nancy Jean-Jacques, (Paul Maurice Jules) and (Osner Celestin). (Celestin) was immediately released. (Fritz Oster), general director of the Foster Parents Plan, had to meet with the authorities in Jacmel to have the others released.

Everyone is wondering if this is going to make Foster Parents Plan leave Jacmel. The plan is an international, nongovernmental organization. People say it is a big help to the Department of the Southeast, especially in health and education, harnessing springs, and with roads. It employs many people in Jacmel. Many people think at least 60 to 70 percent of the economy of southeastern Haiti depends on this organization.

Residents of Leogane Determined Not To Vote
FL122358 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 12 Jan 88

[By Leogane correspondent (Frantz Charles])

[Text] Things are still the same in Leogane 5 days before the elections. That is, the people are still determined not to vote, especially with the way the macoutes are trucking around these days. Last night there was much shooting in Leogane, which made all the people [words indistinct]. In spite of this, we keep receiving news releases.

We have one from the Leogane Hometown Guys Cooperation Group which asks the (?population) of Leogane to stand fast, be alert, and unite in order to prevent macoute elections from taking place in Haiti. It asks

people not to let their houses be used for polling stations for the macoute elections on 17 January and for everyone to stay home on the occasion of the macoute elections.

The note ends: Together, we say: Macoutes will not be victorious!

It is signed by (Danton Leger), (Manuel Francois), (Dicken Petit-Homme), and (Aristile R. Junior Fils).

People in Leogane are not at all enthusiastic about the coming elections. Also, as in Port-au-Prince, the Army is searching all vehicles. All vehicles on National Highway No. 2 are being searched.

ACEF Leader Goes Into Hiding; Opposes Elections

FL122335 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Excerpt] (Bernard A. Jean-Gilles), secretary general of the Association of Church Committees of Fonds du Cap, ACEF, in the Grande Anse, has had to go into hiding because the association is opposed to the 17 January elections. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Seaga Statement on Caricom-Haiti Meeting

FL072009 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga says he and his team of delegates to the Barbados meeting were more prepared and clearer on the issues surrounding the political occurrences in Haiti over the past 22 months.

In a news release, the prime minister also said the meeting attracted a great deal of interest when it became known that he had held strongly to the view that the exercise should be a Caribbean effort so as to involve other governments in the wider Caribbean.

And at a press conference in Barbados, Mr Seaga said that the Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders will continue to function as necessary but should wait and see what happens in the elections.

Manley Gives Views

FL131945 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 13, CANA—Former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley accused Caribbean leaders of cynicism over events in Haiti and called for international repudiation of Sunday's elections in the French-speaking Caribbean nation.

In a statement released on Tuesday night, Manley also called for the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom), whose members met in Barbados a week ago, to immediately review Haiti's observer status on four of its committees.

The PNP reaction came in the face of a relatively mild criticism by Caricom leaders of Haiti's ruling junta over the arrangements for Sundays election. In particular I regard the suggestion implicit in the Caricom conference that bad elections are better than no elections as equally contemptuous of democracy and the Haitian people, Manley said. I disassociate the PNP absolutely from this form of cynicism.

Manley added: We call upon the international community to repudiate Sunday's election and to isolate the Haitian regime until it enters upon and completes some form of negotiation either within Haiti or with some external group, or both, which established concretely a credible electoral process acceptable to the legitimate democratic elements within Haiti, Manley said.

Manley, who is the leader of the opposition People's National Party (PNP), here said he also spoke in his capacity as a vice president of Socialist International (SI), which groups socialist and social democratic parties worldwide.

The communique of the stormy Caricom meeting, reportedly at the insistence of Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who has argued the need to keep channels open, fell short of threatening sanctions if the elections were not credible.

Manley, saying that Caricom leaders disregarded the interests of the Haitian people, branded their statement as grossly inadequate in the absence of clear understanding about a credible electoral process for January 17. And he criticised Seaga for approaching the meeting in a spirit of crass partisanship which had put his perception of partisan interest above the legitimate concerns of the Haitian people.

I can only express my astonishment that the representatives of other Caribbean governments should have proved incapable of withstanding the Jamaican attempt to distort the issues in partisan terms so as to secure the mildest form of rebuke for past transgressions in Haiti. Further he said, the Jamaica position, apparently accepted in Bridgetown, contained no hint of the stand which the Caribbean might be expected to take in support of its brothers and sisters struggling to find their path to a legitimate democracy.

The elections were originally planned for November 29 but were called off when gunmen, unimpeded by the authorities, opened fire on would-be voters, killing at

least 34 and injuring scores of others. Military leader Lt Gen. Henri Namphy fired the independent electoral commission that postponed the election and installed his own handpicked group.

The official JAMPRESS news agency quoted Seaga as telling diplomats on Tuesday that the Caribbean leaders were originally eager to threaten sanctions against Haiti. However, he said: The head took ascendency over the heart based on their taking into account the stark realities and practicalities of the Haitian situation.

Montserrat

Osborne Favors Military Help for Haiti

FL072126 Bridgetown CANA in English
1440 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Jan 7, CANA—John Osborne, chief minister of the Caribbean Community's (Caricom) smallest member state, Montserrat, says he favours some sort of foreign intervention in Haiti to ensure that country's return to democracy. In an interview here Thursday, Osborne said he was not calling for an invasion, but instead a possible United Nations peace keeping force to ensure a free and fair poll when elections are held there January 17.

Osborne, who did not attend Wednesday's Caricom heads of government consultation on Haiti in Barbados, said there some people in the troubled French Caribbean island, who had enjoyed power for a long time and were not prepared to give it up at any price.

He said I suspect the Haitians who love democracy and want democracy are going to have to get help from a democratic country, a powerful democratic country....I know that the whole rest of the world would object to the Americans going in militarily, but personally I feel that what they (the Haitians) need is military help.

The chief minister of this 39-square mile British Colony said the Haitian situation could be compared to the Grenada situation prior to the U.S.-led intervention in 1983 to oust a left-wing military government that had seized power and killed the prime minister and several of his colleagues.

St Lucia

Odlum Criticizes CDU Role in Haitian Situation

FL091441 Bridgetown CANA in English
2059 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Jan 8, CANA—Former St Lucian Foreign Minister George Odlum has criticised the role of the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) in regional affairs, blaming it for "the disarray in which Caricom leaders found themselves" at their emergency meeting on Haiti in Barbados on Wednesday.

"I have consistently warned the political leaders in Caricom that the role of CDU in Caribbean politics is sinister and counter-productive, said Odlum who leads the small leftleaning Progressive Labour Party (PLP).

The CDU is a grouping of right-wing ruling political parties in the region, headed by Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Odlum said the attraction of the CDU to Caribbean leaders is the provision of funding and assistance in promoting the electoral politics of right wing parties with a pro-American stance. But the corollary to this is that the CDU is primarily concerned with advancing the geopolitical interests of the U.S. and in areas where this interest clashes with the Caribbean perspective, the result is a type of Caricom division and acrimony which we saw at the Barbados meeting on Haiti, Odlum said.

Odlum said Prime Minister Seaga was the pusher of the CDU line at the Haiti talks.

Odlum also took issue with Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles for what he said was her spirited support of Jamaica in not boycotting the Haitian elections. Charles did not favour postponement of Haiti's controversial elections scheduled for January 17.

Odlum said that the real tragedy of the Caricom meeting in Barbados was that it had demonstrated to the world that whoever pays the Caricom piper, can call the tune even if the tune is in dissonance with the aspirations of the Caribbean people.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Mitchell Pleased With Caricom Meeting

FL090430 Bridgetown CANA in English
2158 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Jan 8, CANA—Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines says he is pleased with the outcome of Wednesday's Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders meeting on Haiti held in Barbados. Mitchell, who missed the meeting because he was on vacation, returned to office on Friday. He at first declined to comment on the meeting at which he was represented by Trade Minister Marcus de Freitas, but later said he felt the meeting achieved the best it could in defining a Caribbean position on Haiti.

The Vincentian prime minister was one of five concerned Caribbean leaders who visited Haiti last month and held talks with the military government of Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy. He said his concern about Wednesday's meeting was to ensure the best way of getting Haiti back on the track to democracy. Mitchell said he thought that inasmuch as Lieutenant-General Namphy did not pay any attention to suggestions made by he and his four colleagues last month, it would have

been difficult to accomplish anything at this time given the proximity of the meeting to the planned January 17 new elections. I think that in the circumstances the heads of government and those who attended the meeting did as well as they could, Mitchell said.

He felt it was important to keep the lines of communications open with the existing government in Haiti if the Caribbean Community was going to attempt to influence the outcome of things in Haiti in the future. Mitchell said he believed at this point in time nothing should be done to push Haiti back into isolationism in the Caribbean.

Trinidad and Tobago

Panday Desired Stronger Statement on Haiti

FL080420 Bridgetown CANA in English
2242 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 7, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday returned home Thursday from Wednesday's controversial Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit on Haiti in Barbados, satisfied that the meeting had reached consensus, but wishing the communique were stronger. The final communique could have been stronger, he told reporters at the airport here.

Panday, who led a six-member Trinidad and Tobago delegation, said he believed the most positive part of the final statement to be the hope that Haiti's military government will put in place the necessary arrangements to guarantee a free and fair electoral process for the forthcoming January 17 poll.

Asked about the absence of any comment in the communique on Caricom's future stance should the Henri Namphy regime refuse to put in place procedures for free and fair poll, Panday said:

I believe that Caricom countries, like ourselves, are waiting to see what happens on election day and if the elections are farcical and meaningless, I am sure that the Caricom leaders would want to meet again and assess the situation and determine what measures they should take in the light of the new circumstances.

The Trinidad foreign minister declined to be drawn into controversy over whether Jamaica hijacked the Barbados meeting and watered down the Caricom stance on Haiti.

Panday told questioning reporters: It has not been the practice of Trinidad and Tobago to point the finger...you are asking us to point fingers and we would not like to in the interests of international relations and in the interests of the Caribbean Community. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

RN's Alfredo Cesar To Leave Country

PA140030 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2347 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 13 Jan (DPA)—Alfredo Cesar, a leader of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], this afternoon stated he is leaving Costa Rica because of the ultimatum Costa Rican President Oscar Arias delivered yesterday. In his ultimatum, Arias asked all RN leaders to "desist from making war or to leave the country as soon as possible."

Cesar made his announcement this afternoon during a news conference. He was president of Nicaragua's Central Bank at the start of the rule of the Sandinist government.

Cesar is the top leader of the RN's Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), better known as the "contras."

Another leader, Alfonso Robelo, who met with Arias today, will remain in the country. Robelo is married to a Costa Rican woman who is about to have a baby.

Robelo agreed to work for his cause solely on a political basis.

El Salvador

Defense Minister on 12 Jan Helicopter Crash

PA131431 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The Salvadoran Army has reiterated that the UH-1H helicopter that crashed yesterday morning did so due to mechanical difficulties. Three persons were killed and three were injured in the crash.

Meanwhile, Carlos Eugenio Vides, minister of defense and public security, has admitted that the helicopter went down in an area near the slopes of Guazapa Hill, traditionally a guerrilla-infested region, where the Army is conducting the Phoenix 14 counterinsurgency operation. According to the minister, the two pilots and an artilleryman died in the crash, while an artilleryman, a nurse, and a soldier were injured. Vides did not rule out the possibility that a volley of machinegun fire by the guerrillas might have hit the helicopter and shot it down. He noted, however, that he will consult with those injured in the crash to obtain information on the incident.

The guerrillas have not yet claimed credit for the downing of the helicopter, which would be their first one of the year.

During 1987, the FMLN claimed that it shot down three helicopters of the same type. One was carrying six U.S. military advisers, who all died in the crash. In addition, the guerrillas said they damaged four other aircraft in various parts of the country during attacks on military bases. However, the Armed Forces have denied that the accidents were due to rebel attacks, and have instead asserted that they were caused by mechanical problems and poor weather conditions.

The Army has asserted that the Phoenix 14 Operation, which was launched 4 January in the town of Guazapa, 21 km north of San Salvador, is proceeding as planned. According to Mauricio Vargas, chief of Military Operations Department No 3, the Army has killed six guerrillas, wounded an undetermined number, seized 15 rifles, and defused 45 booby traps in 17 battles and skirmishes. Vargas admitted that 8 soldiers were killed and 25 wounded during the first 11 days of 1988.

On 'Biased' CIVS Attitude

PA140252 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Report by David Marciano Rivas]

[Text] Minister of Defense and Public Security General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, today deplored the biased attitude that the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS] of the Esquipulas II agreement demonstrated during its visit to El Salvador last weekend. Gen Vides Casanova said that the CIVS sought to favor Nicaragua and to conceal the progress made by the other Central American countries.

[Begin recording] [Vides] Yes, I believe that the mission of the CIVS should have concentrated more on gathering facts and information to evaluate the progress of Esquipulas II. I particularly believe that the commission was biased in favor of the Nicaraguan situation. I additionally found that its members had little interest in learning the views of and the progress made by the governments. Instead, they showed interest in learning the negative aspects that the opposition was going to present.

Nevertheless, I am confident that the commission will submit a report in which perhaps all of us or none of us will be guilty. Such a report will logically favor Nicaragua. I believe that for Esquipulas II to have any positive results, it is necessary for the countries of the region to effectively verify that necessary advances have been made in democracy. I think that if these doors to democracy are opened just a crack, the effects we expect for a constant democracy in all the countries of the region will widen in time. This will favor the fact that our intention is to establish a democracy.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] falling helicopter this morning?

[Vides] To answer his [not further identified] question first, I do not know what the presidents are thinking. For Esquipulas II to have any results, I believe it is necessary to evaluate whether Esquipulas II is specifically achieving the objectives that were established. These are not

being attained. Some changes have to be made, and we must determine whether it is necessary to continue with the spirit of Esquipulas II. The presidents may also possibly have to extend some of the deadlines. However, that is up to them. I believe it is necessary to evaluate the positive and negative aspects of the agreements and to make some corrections.

As for the helicopter that you mentioned, yes, prior to dawn yesterday—I have two time frames—someone told me that a helicopter crashed at approximately 0130. We are investigating whether this was an accident or whether the helicopter was fired at from the ground. It may have been machinegun fire, but we do not have all the information. We are investigating, and a Coprefa team has traveled there to investigate. I can tell you that the pilot and copilot died, along with an artilleryman. Another artilleryman and a soldier were injured. They are now at the military hospital and may be able to tell us exactly what happened.[end recording]

The minister of defense and public security also told us that tomorrow he will accompany Gen Adolfo Blandon, chief of the joint General Staff of the Armed Forces, to a meeting of Central American military chiefs. This will be held in an as yet unannounced country in the region. According to Vides Casanova, the meeting will analyze the programs and progress of the Esquipulas II peace plan.

Justice Minister on Anaya Murder Suspect

PA112200 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] Minister of Justice Julio Alfredo Samayoa has categorically denied that Jorge Alberto Miranda, the confessed killer of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, was bribed into confessing that he murdered the coordinator of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission.

The official explained that Miranda did receive a 12,000-colon reward for providing information about two "caches" [tatus] where the terrorists had hidden arms. One cache was in the San Matilde (Mejicanos) neighborhood, while the other was in San Antonio Abad.

The minister noted that the campaign of giving rewards to terrorists who deliver arms to the Army or who tell where arms can be found was intensified during December.

This is how it came to happen that Miranda delivered arms and told where the "caches" were, and this is why he received a reward. Minister Samayoa stated that Miranda at no point received any reward for admitting his participation in the murder of Anaya Sanabria.

The mother of the arrested man, Domitila Ascencio Arevalo, has declared out of court that at the time of the assassination on 26 October 1987, in the Zacamil neighborhood, Miranda was asleep after having stayed up the night before studying for an exam.

Leftist organizations have charged that the Christian Democratic government has presented Miranda as one of the killers in an effort to ingratiate itself with the CIVS of Esquipulas II, which is visiting the country.

To support his statement, and to demonstrate the veracity of the government's charges and of the findings of investigations carried out to date, Minister Samayoa has revealed that Miranda informed the authorities of an attempt FMLN terrorists were going to carry out on 24 December. To frustrate that plan, the Army launched an operation in which several persons were killed.

The minister said that Coprefa will confirm this information in an official bulletin.

The minister stated that Miranda's mother has publicly told newsmen that she belongs to a group known as COMADRES [expansion unknown]. This organization, according to the minister, is an FMLN shock front.

Samayoa also said that the accused has confessed that his brothers are terrorists, and that it was a Miranda brother who convinced him to join the clandestine groups. Samayoa added that Miranda's sister has the aliases Violeta and Marta. A judicial source has reported that next week, to refute charges that the government bribed Miranda, the accused's mother and his sister, Ana Gladys Miranda, will be summoned to appear before the First District Court.

Miranda has legally confessed that he participated in the assassination. This killing, according to reports, was ordered by the clandestine People's Revolutionary Army—which had accused the victim of spying for the Armed Forces—to blame the Armed Forces for the crime.

Deputies Approve New Electoral Code

PA112300 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and PCN [National Conciliation Party] deputies last night approved the new electoral code by 34 votes during the plenary session, which had been suspended twice this week.

The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] faction and Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia, PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party] deputy, abstained. Independent Deputy Rene Fortin Magana was not present.

After much delay, the session began at 1810 local time.

When Assembly President Dr Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo called the roll, 10 PCN, 8 ARENA, and 24 PDC deputies were found to be in attendance. Several "contras" were absent.

PCN Deputy Pio Arnulfo Ayala requested a change in the agenda to include amendments to the amendments on three electoral code articles, as proposed by PDC Deputy Mauricio Mazier Andino on 24 December. It was unnecessary to amend the agenda because Ayala's proposal was accepted.

Ayala's amendments concerned paragraphs of the three articles in which, according to the opposition, Central Electoral Council [CCE] Chairman Mario Samayoa is given unbridled power.

Several paragraphs of these articles were changed. Four of these were by two-to-one votes by the CCE members. A unanimous decision was reached on three others.

In addition, Dr Calderon Sol of ARENA said the new code included several violations of the Constitution and that because of this, his faction would abstain. He stated that two unconstitutionality appeals have been filed with the Supreme Court of Justice, one by Magana and the other by a group of lawyers.

Hugo Carrillo reported the hard work they had in drafting the code. He noted that the approval of the new code represents a victory for the Salvadoran people and the democratic process. He also commented that this work was the result of the efforts of all political forces. Finally, he expressed his desire for a worthy political campaign, one without slander or libel.

Escobar Garcia said: "I regret my disagreement with the PCN proposal. I would not vote for the code for historical reasons that the people are familiar with."

Escobar Garcia also commented that there exists a confusing regulation whereby the voters' electoral cards will be retained at the time they cast their votes. He declared that it will be difficult for voters to have this identification returned to them.

The new electoral code includes the old electoral law, the political debt law, and the political parties registration law. The new code contains 317 articles.

This was the first plenary session in 1988. It continued the 24 December session that had been suspended.

FMLN Denies Transport Stoppage Planned

PA130147 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0122 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Your attention, please. In view of rumors that there will be a transportation stoppage, we state most categorically that no transportation stoppage has been decreed. The only media authorized to announce the decisions of our general command are our guerrilla radio stations Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti. We repeat, no transportation stoppage has been announced by our general command. Rumors to this effect are false.

Farabundo Marti Salutes Venceremos Anniversary

PA111740 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] On our 7th anniversary, we are establishing contact with Chalatenango, with our sister station Radio Farabundo Marti, which wanted to be represented here in Morazan, celebrating our birthday. Go ahead, Chalatenango.

[Begin Radio Farabundo Marti announcer relay] Comrades of Radio Venceremos, within the framework of our people's commemoration of the 10 January 1981 general offensive, we are establishing contact with you to send our revolutionary greeting on occasion of the 7th anniversary of the birth of that invincible signal. This signal emanates from the heroic Morazan Mountains throughout our national territory to inform the Salvadoran people of the victories and daily advances of the people and their vanguard in this war for national liberation.

In conclusion, brothers of Radio Venceremos, we believe these 7 years signify that we have eliminated the siege of misinformation employed by the dictatorship and U.S. imperialism.

These 7 years of being on the people's side also represent a defeat for the gringo tactics and the complete puppet army's inability to silence our revolutionary radio stations.

From these trenches of historic combat in Chalatenango, Radio Farabundo Marti and all our workers greet you comrades of Radio Venceremos.

With this contact, we also convey the greetings of our guerrilla units and the people of Chalatenango Department who listen to our revolutionary radio stations everyday.

From these Chalatenango towns, we wish to tell you that our militias and clandestine guerrillas are carrying out several activities with the townspeople to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the general offensive.

Here in [name indistinct], as well as in other places of this Modesto Ramirez Central Front, the feeling is one of victory.

Finally comrades, we wish to tell you that Radio Farabundo Marti will continue accompanying you, taking to the people the voice and message of their vanguard, the FMLN.

In this heroic January, Farabundo lives.

Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti are on the people's side, ready for victory!

Go ahead, dear companeros there in Morazan. You are rebels and invincible! [end relay]

Honduras

Contras Reportedly 'Sharing' Camp With Army

PA140221 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Jan 88 p 11

[Text] Ojo de Agua, El Paraiso—With the knowledge and consent of the civilian population, hundreds of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries are sharing the headquarters of the 6th Infantry Battalion, 50 km from Tegucigalpa, with Honduran Army soldiers.

The anti-Sandinist presence inside that military unit is common knowledge, even while the government insists on denying their presence in the country and has announced its approval of international verification.

The anti-Sandinists arrived aboard 25 trucks at the 6th Infantry Battalion Headquarters in November from Capire, at the Nicaraguan border.

They arrived very late in the evening, and now that they must leave, they are also mobilizing late at night to conceal their presence.

Upon their arrival, they set up olive green tents on a hill about 100 km from the battalion school.

Eight tents are visible on the hillside from outside the military unit. According to area residents, in the middle there is a small space with grass, where helicopters carrying supplies land.

Ojo de Agua residents estimate that there could be about 500 "contras" in that camp. The contras reportedly came from the border area of El Paraiso.

A woman who was asked how she knows that those people are contras replied: "Are our husbands not military men? They tell us about it. Everyone here knows about this. They do not hurt anyone."

Another woman said: "The only difference is, before this one could go looking for firewood in that area, but now they don't allow us to do this." "They did not conceal their arrival; one can see them at all hours," she added.

The women said that helicopters, with some frequency, "come to bring them [contras] canned food." The women said they do not know how many contras live in the eight tents, but one of them suggested perhaps 500.

"They enter and leave the battalion, usually in cars. Sometimes they come to town to buy things" said one of the women who accompanied TIEMPO to observe the contra installations from a distance.

The 6th Battalion Headquarters is a modern military installation with abundant green areas, entertainment such as billiards, and a soccer field.

It has a 30-meter-long dancehall, a well-organized musical group, and especially, areas to house all troops; tents thus are not needed there. [sentence as published]

The areas that were opened last May during the latter part of artillery exercises involving U.S. forces allowed members of the press to see that the U.S. troops were housed in tents carefully erected on a flat expanse next to the dancehall.

The anti-Sandinist camp is located farther away from where the U.S. troops were billeted.

The U.S. forces lived on a flat area almost in the middle of the Honduran military unit, but the contras are housed farther away on the western side of the hill.

The tents are situated among the pine trees. Some people can be seen moving around from a distance.

We attempted to obtain comments from officials of the 6th Battalion on the presence of rebels in that unit. However, at the entry guard post, we were told that the commander, Colonel Erik O'Conner, was not present.

After we waited for the colonel for 2 hours, a high-ranking officer from the unit said he did not know when the colonel would return.

He added that there was no telephone service from Tegucigalpa because technicians from the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise (HONDUTEL) had not arrived to repair the system, which constantly goes out of service when the wind blows telephone wires down.

When asked whether he had any reaction to the reports made by the people in Ojo de Agua, the high-ranking officer replied that "only the commander or the public relations department in Tegucigalpa possess the authority to give out information."

One of the soldiers at the guard post said "it is a lie" that anti-Sandinist groups were housed there. However, another soldier replied: "Who knows? Many people come in here. All kinds of people come in, and we don't know who they are because the contras now wear the same uniform that we do."

"Those in command are the ones who know about this. We have no way of knowing," he emphasized.

The presence of contras in a military unit has been detected at a time when the government announced that it is prepared to permit on-site verification by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, which will supervise compliance with the Guatemala agreement.

One of the principal agreements that the Honduran Government must comply with is ending support for armed groups that seek to destabilize the governments of neighboring states.

Nicaragua

Huembes Urges Direct Government-Contra Talks

PA121744 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] During a speech following a march to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board—directed by Carlos Huembes—again praised the contras and demanded that the contras be included in direct talks between the contra leadership and the government.

During his speech, Huembes expressed the Coordinating Board's rejection of any indirect talks between the contra leadership and the government.

[Begin Huembes recording] Our decision is to never yield in the struggle for freedom. On 6 and 7...[changes thought] and we are saying this very clearly, for we have always spoken very clearly and face-to-face. We have never lied, never betrayed, and never forgotten the most sacred interests of the Nicaraguan people. On 6 and 7 August, when the peace agreement known as Esquipulas II was signed in Guatemala City, I personally sent a telegram to Daniel Ortega telling him that since the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, the Nicaraguan Resistance—the Nicaraguan rebels—were in the same city, it was necessary to have a national dialogue to prevent any further bloodshed.

Mr Ortega never answered our proposal, and he has not yet answered it. Therefore, it seems he is not interested in finding a solution to the problem that has resulted in the deaths of so many Nicaraguan youths, who are Nicaragua's greatest resource and its future. [crowd shouts: Viva the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board!]

I want to tell the president that it is not possible to be silent and remain silent about this forever. People here can no longer endure the inhuman conditions in this country. It is not possible to remain silent when there are thousands of Nicaraguans starving, and thousands of Nicaraguans crying for their relatives killed in a struggle that does not represent either the feelings or the interests of the Nicaraguan people.

Nicaraguan people: The Coordinating Board is demanding the presence of the National Resistance here in Nicaragua to (?discuss) before the Nicaraguan people any decisions we may have to make regarding the future of Nicaragua.

It would be cruel, demagogic, and absurd for the FSLN to say that we are conspiring against them, and that we are not obeying the law, just because we are making this proposal. This is because the FSLN has agreed to have the Democratic Coordinating Board act as a mediator in a dialogue.

We demand an end to the betrayals of the Nicaraguan people. After all, our lives and our destiny are being negotiated. Since this concerns us, we cannot accept further arrangements that are made abroad, with the purpose of preventing our people from learning about these agreements. That is the reason behind planning meetings in Belize and Panama, and that is why they have held talks in the Dominican Republic, far away from us: so our people will not know or understand what is taking place.

Nicaraguan people: We will struggle unceasingly. We will resort to using all our means in our civic struggle, for we are certain that we have succeeded, and that we will continue succeeding and struggling until we achieve freedom. We will struggle until Nicaragua becomes a republic for Nicaraguans, and until Nicaragua is what Nicaraguans want it to be. [end recording]

Panama

Esquivel Terms Country 'De Facto Dictatorship'

PA132238 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Madrid, 13 Jan (EFE)—Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel said "even though it seems that Panama has a democracy, it is actually a de facto dictatorship."

In statements to the Spanish journal LA VANGUARDIA, Esquivel said General Manuel A. Noriega is in a "very difficult and critical" situation. Nevertheless, he believes that Noriega "will not abandon his position with a sensational escape."

The leader of the Liberal Party noted that the general's image "continues to deteriorate, but he is not the type of man who would flee." Esquivel added that if Noriega forces the president to resign, he [Esquivel] would then assume power, as provided for by the Constitution.

Esquivel, who maintains a position of confrontation with the government and the Defense Forces, and who is also in a sort of internal exile, commented: "If Noriega forces Delvalle's resignation, then I would automatically become president of the Republic. I am right now announcing that I intend to assume that post."

Esquivel affirmed that Noriega has made "serious mistakes," and emphasized that "halting the democratic transition and returning to dictatorial methods has been mentioned as the cause of the tremendous dissatisfaction."

After insisting that the general's rule "has been characterized by very serious internal and foreign accusations that have not been investigated," Esquivel stated that "it would be a mistake to pretend that all of Panama's problems depend on Noriega."

According to Vice President Esquivel, Panama "is facing a dilemma. Either we hold a dialogue and find a peaceful and democratic solution, or we will wind up shooting at each other."

"People can no longer tolerate a dictatorship. They want a true democracy," Esquivel added. He suggested that "there will be violence unless we lead Panama to a decent and true democracy."

In conclusion, Esquivel stated that his party participated in the alliance with the government in 1984 because it believed the promises about democratization. "We had hopes there would be a democratic transition to a civilian government," he said.

Blandon Interviewed on Current Situation
PA131752 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1226 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Interview with Consul in New York Jose Isabel Blandon by Ramon Jimenez Velez during the "Open Microphone" program—live telephone relay from New York]

[Text] [Jimenez] We have Eng Jose Isabel Blandon on the line. He will discuss the country's current situation and the latest incidents that have been reported by international news agencies. We have contacted Blandon to get first-hand information on all this and to learn his opinion of what has been appearing in the local and international press, particularly about yesterday's PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] meeting. This was convoked to hold a session of the party's Discipline Court to allegedly discuss Blandon's situation, as well as the Civic Crusade's statement that it has no links with remarks made by Blandon. Here is Blandon. Go ahead; you are on the air.

[Blandon] Good morning Panamanian people. I want to use this opportunity to wish you a happy new year and my best wishes that this year, the Panamanian people will find the emotional and material conditions that the country needs for its development.

I first want to state that I have been carefully listening to and following reports about our country. I start by saying that as for the many remarks that certain PRD leaders are making about me, none of these leaders have contacted me to discuss anything. I understand that a commission has been appointed to quote, presumably, unquote, investigate my actions.

I must tell the PRD members, the members of my party, that at no time has this commission, if this commission was appointed, had the courtesy to contact me to discuss anything. Therefore, I do not understand how a commission can present a report when this particular commission has not discussed anything with the person who is the subject of its report.

Neither the PRD leadership, president, its secretary general, nor Ramiro Vasquez—who made some rash accusations—has made contact with the person they allegedly accuse of several crimes, including treason.

I want to make this clear so that our party comrades will ask themselves if these are the methods for solving a problem.

The reason for my participation here is to explain what has been happening.

I must clearly state that, in my condition as a political leader of this country, a Panamanian, and a thinking human being, it is clear to me that the most recent incidents in the country, since mid-1987, clearly demonstrate that there is a political crisis that has not been solved. These incidents show that at this time, our party, our party's leadership, and the government are facing a situation that is very difficult and complex.

In essence, the country's interests, the interests of the workers, the jobless, and the thousands of workers who are affected by the impending financial crisis are very serious problems which, I believe, are not being addressed as seriously and thoroughly as the Panamanian people deserve.

I think that what is being discussed in certain government circles are personal rather than national interests. Therefore, when I began searching for various alternatives for a possible solution for the Republic of Panama, I started with the following analysis: There is a political crisis in the Republic of Panama. There is a profound division in Panamanian society, and it is necessary to look for a solution that paves the way for an understanding among Panamanians. This is so that the country's basic problem—the need to promote development, employment, and resolve the people's problems—can be resolved.

In addition, no solution is possible in Panama if there is no political understanding among the forces in conflict.

In November, I spoke over the radio in Panama and clearly stated that the government has been unable to accept the opposition, and that the opposition has been unable to accept the people's will.

There was, and still is, an impasse in the country's political situation that prevents the country from solving its problem. In view of this political impasse, there has been a deterioration in the critical financial and economic situation in the Republic of Panama. This will put the economy in a serious jam and will especially harm the country's neediest sectors.

The basic question that any political leader should ask himself is how do we solve this problem. However, there is a government sector that is more interested in attacking Engineer Jose Blandon, as a political leader, personally, than in national interests.

So, in view of this, I must be very honest and say that the country's leaders now appear surprised or allegedly, quote, surprised, unquote, about this search for solutions.

I was authorized by the Panamanian political-military leadership to find a political solution to the Panamanian situation. I have copies of documents I sent to Panama and documents that I received from Panama as part of the process to find a national political solution.

How did I approach this problem? I must say I approached it in coordination with General Noriega and President Delvalle. I approached the problem with the following premises.

1. No political solution is possible in Panama without negotiating with Gen Noriega.

2. No political solution is possible in the Republic of Panama by disrupting constitutional order.

3. No political solution is possible unless the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which are the basis for our foreign policy, are respected.

Finally, no political solution is possible in Panama unless the opposition and the government reach an agreement to resolve matters that either side considers a source of conflict. This is to help attain the minimum requirements for generating some confidence [in the government], and thus be able to govern. This would allow us to resolve the differences over power through the electoral process.

In order to resolve the problem, one must ask: What is the real source of the problem? However, there are some political leaders in the government, particularly in the PRD, who are more concerned with protecting their own personal interests than with reality. Thus, any policy for dealing with the problem must take into account the people's concerns, which have been expressed in the streets by the continuous strikes, in the continuous discussions in homes and in the streets, etc. Therefore, the basic problems are: development, unemployment, democracy, freedom, civilian control by the ...[changes thought] civilian control of the government, civilians, elections, justice, and the problem of dispelling Panama's poor image in order to obtain international and financial support for national development again.

All those problems should be resolved in order to begin fighting the points we have mentioned. That is, I have proposed reforms in areas within the domain of the FDP [Panama Defense Forces], and President Delvalle, and other reforms that I term political reforms for creating a suitable atmosphere for reaching an understanding. This would allow us to adopt an economic program to resolve the financial and economic crisis, so the country can take off—economically speaking—and so it will not fall into a crisis that would further worsen the situation for Panamanian families.

Panamanian political leaders should clearly ask themselves—within this framework—how we can resolve this problem.

I have prepared a document by developing the aforementioned concept. Panamanian officials are aware of this document. It is not a document drafted by the U.S. authorities; it is a document that I prepared, one that includes all the basic points and premises I have mentioned for contending with the problem.

After the document was prepared, I had a series of contacts and discussions that were authorized by Panama, with various leaders from the U.S. Senate—I am referring to U.S. senators and congressmen—members of the U.S. State Department, and other representatives from U.S. financial institutions to create the basic conditions for reaching an understanding. Therefore, when the U.S. delegation went to the United... [changes thought] to Panama to talk to Gen Noriega, the basis for their discussions was the fact that a political understanding is necessary in Panama, and that the Panamanians must develop a Panamanian solution to Panamana's problem.

Is there any betrayal or any intervention in this? The U.S. delegation simply stated that it is necessary to find a Panamanian solution to the problem. I believe this view is shared by other Latin American leaders and presidents with whom I have had the opportunity to discuss this matter. It is obvious that the Republic of Panama reached the impasse I have mentioned. Therefore, it is necessary to find a Panamanian political solution that is in accordance with Panamanian reality. We cannot attain a solution by trying to conceal Panama's true problems.

Consequently, this overall plan, which does not criticize Panama's Defense Forces—as was reported by CRITICA yesterday—or the country's institutions, is a clear, specific proposal that respects constitutional order. It also restores a political guideline that will permit the transfer of power to civilians in an efficient and gradual way, and at a rate that will allow the 1989 elections to be

held within a framework of credibility and mutual confidence among Panamanians. This confidence is currently being lost and may lead to a true confrontation between Panamanians.

In addition, it is obvious that any financial plan the country may develop will require international economic support. This support would have to come, obviously, from Panama's traditional allies and the economic region where we [words indistinct].

Therefore, I want to explain certain basic things. It is not true that in this plan we discussed the fate or future of the Panama Canal. On the contrary, one of the basic premises is that this is not negotiable. This is not negotiable. [Blandon repeats himself] The rest of Panama's political problems can be negotiated by Panamanians. This solution would have to be proposed under the following plan: First, there must be an understanding among the government forces. I presented this discussion, this program, and this plan to the Panamanian Government. I presented it to Gen Noriega and President Delvalle. There must be an understanding between President Delvalle and Gen Noriega on any plan. Then, there must be an understanding among the government forces toward this plan. And it is the Panamanian Government that should offer the opposition a plan for political understanding, one based on basic points, to solve the country's main problems. The opposition would then have to negotiate with the government, but based on this plan.

Once this is done, negotiations between the government and the opposition to establish this basic concept would permit a national understanding. The problem, I repeat Panamanian people, is that there are sectors in Panama, in the government and in the opposition, that do not believe this understanding is possible.

I, in my position as a politician, a Panamanian, and a father, believe that this understanding is possible in the Republic of Panama. This is because if we do not achieve it, we would be leading Panamanian society down a dead-end street.

The plan I presented was not offered as the final version of a program. It is a basic plan. The only thing is that I have had the honesty and the courage to clearly point out the true headaches of this problem. To not do so would deceive the leaders. There are people who prefer to hear truths that are pleasant to them rather than those that are real, regardless of how bitter they may be. It is easier for a politician to see reality, because a politician who does not see reality and who does not understand what is happening runs the risk of doing things based on matters that are not real.

Therefore, this was a plan that was up for discussion, and which some PRD sectors—particularly the sector headed by Ramiro Vasquez Chambonet—tried to use as a weapon against Blandon. However, in view of the moral values that that PRD group possesses,I am not concerned by their accusations. What I am truly concerned about is that Panamanians should find a solution to their problem.

I also want to express my profound concern because my eldest son had to seek asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy 2 days ago due to FDP persecution against me.

I want to clearly state that if anyone at the FDP has any problems with me, I think they should be man enough to take it out on me, not on my son. Therefore, I blame anything that may happen to that boy—he is not a boy who has taken any wrong stands, who is a young man with talent, a young man with very good grades, his university professors can attest to that, a boy who is courageous and devoted to his studies, who is now at the Costa Rican Embassy thanks to the Costa Rican Government and President Oscar Arias... [sentence as heard]

I want to note that there is no attitude of reconciliation and peace, and that hatred and senseless attacks have led the country to where it is today.

If we, the political leaders, are unable to deal with and resolve the problems clearly, firmly, and honestly, because when a politician faces the fact that he is the problem, he must deal with the problem himself and do his best to solve it. [sentence as heard]

In addition, I would like to mention some other points: It has been said I have met with opposition leaders, particularly with Gabriel Lewis Galindo—Ambassador Lewis Galindo—and some other leaders. As a political leader of the Republic of Panama, I have always believed in dialogue, even with my political adversaries. I do not think...[changes thought] in the particular case of Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Gen Noriega himself authorized me to talk with Gabriel Lewis Galindo, and he is aware of the talks I held with Lewis Galindo and with other people in the United States. It is no secret; it is a reality. For example, I can mention that last week, specifically on Thursday, Ambassador [Roberto] Leyton, the Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, met with Gabriel Lewis Galindo and with Miguel Corro of the Authentic Panamenist Party in Washington. During that meeting, Leyton told those who were present that he was authorized to hold that meeting. He proposed two specific points: 1. The possibility of a secret meeting between Gabriel Lewis Galindo and Gen Noriega. 2. The possibility of finding a solution to the Panamanian problem through a new government, like a junta or a similar form of goverment.

I wonder: What does this mean? Is the party aware of this? Is Gen Noriega really aware of this? The Panamanian situation is so turbulent, complex, and disparate that I think we should give up the gossip and slander campaign to get to the roots of the problem worrying the Panamanian people. I do not think...[changes thought] a political leader simply reflects what his people feel. In

Panama, the Panamanian people have expressed and feel in their flesh and spirit the need to find a solution for the national problems to get the country's political situation out of its current deadlock and to stop the mounting spiral of violence in the Republic of Panama, and to curb the excess of power, which is shown when people are persecuted for their ideas. When that happens—when ideas are persecuted...[changes thought] no government has ever managed to govern by persecuting ideas.

[Jimenez] There is only one question regarding the points you have mentioned. It is related to international dispatches regarding the visit by Armitage, the assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs [title as heard], to Panama and his meeting with Gen Noriega. Does the plan you have called a Panamanian political solution for the Panamanian situation include the departure of the commander in chief of the Defense Forces in April as has been proposed?

[Blandon] The meeting with Pastorino, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, and the U.S. ambassador took place on 30 December. According to the reports I have, the U.S. proposal to Noriega is aimed at seeking a solution among Panamanians. They mentioned to him the ideas I have proposed as part of an idea that the United States approves. When I say any plan necessarily must include a discussion of the Defense Forces problem I mean any plan must state how long the FDP commanders will remain in their posts, be it Manuel Antonio Noriega or someone else. This is part of the democratic process that Torrijos conceived. Any political plan that does not include these aspects is unrealistic for the Republic of Panama. That is what I mean when I say we must clearly deal with the Panamanian situation.

[Jimenez] We thank Eng Jose I. Blandon for his statement on the country's current political situation and on the related international and local reports we have been receiving. Thank you very much, Eng Blandon.

[Blandon,interrupting] I would like to say something before we end this conversation, if I may.

[Jimenez] Yes, of course.

[Blandon] I would like to remind the party's [Democratic Revolutionary Party] directorate that whenever the actions of a party member are judged... [changes thought] I believe all public officials—government and political leaders—must be subject to political analysis and criticism.

This is part and parcel of the social democracy prevailing in our countries. When this is done, the parties involved should be heard. I think it is very irresponsible for Mr Alfredo Macharaviaya to be making accusations, yet say in response to a newsman's question: I cannot say, because I do not know. I think it is irresponsible for the CEN [National Executive Council] of the PRD to be making charges without hearing our position. I think if a commission has been selected, it would be wise for that commission to at least show others the courtesy of listening to their proposals. However, if it is afraid because it has received an order, then that is another matter. I wish to say to the party that at no time have I made any statement against the PRD as a whole. On the contrary, my political position is that the leadership of our party should fulfill its role in a more independent manner. Some decisions have been suppressing the internal life of the PRD and have, in reality, been immobilizing the party.

I believe this party leadership is trying to disguise its political incompetence by making charges against me. I believe its members have immobilized the PRD by their incompetence. They have not presented any proposals for a solution for the country. I have had the courage to discuss my proposal directly with the country's leaders, and I have had the courage to face the problem as I see it. I do not believe I have to ask anyone's permission to work out my ideas, present my projects, and outline my beliefs. If anyone disagrees with me, he should use the appropriate mechanisms to resolve problems and refrain from slander, the method the Tendency [left-wing faction of the PRD] has continually used to usurp the leadership of the PRD and try to impose ideas that would never (?work) in political practice.

If they wish to debate this matter, I am completely at the disposal of the PRD and my party to discuss any problem within a framework of great respect for other people.

If the chosen path is that of slander, threats, and persecution, I am also prepared to wage the battle on that path and within that framework, at whatever cost.

[Jimenez] We thank Eng Blandon, who has been talking from New York by telephone over our international line with us here at the great Exitosa network—the station of truth, the truly independent station. Thank you very much, Engineer Blandon.

[Blandon] Okay.

Urges 'Change' Within FDP

PA132141 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1305 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Consul in New York Jose Isabel Blandon during the "Open Microphone" program hosted by Ramon Jimenez Velez; date and place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Jimenez] We have been able to make telephonic contact with Eng Jose Isabel Blandon, to respond to the many phone calls we have received concerning the interview with him that we aired a short while ago. Some of our tens of thousands of listeners have some questions. Engineer Blandon, within your concept, your

ideas, and your plan, what do you think the role of the Defense Forces should be within a process of democratic reorganization, on the path to democracy that we are all pursuing?

[Blandon] First, I must say that any proposal must consider the role of the FDP, particularly the role of the FDP within Panama's characteristic situation. It has never crossed my mind to propose a solution that reduces the role of the FDP to that of a police force with whistles and clubs. Panama has a strategic geographic location. The FDP must play a basic role in the control and development of that location—which is a fundamental asset to the Republic of Panama—and in the basic support of the process of democratization in Panama.

As for the FDP's political role, I have said there must be a change in the methods of the FDP leadership in political terms. There must be civilian control with military participation. We are not talking about the political elimination of the FDP, because the FDP has historically been an influential political force in national life. It will continue to have this function. I am saying that in terms of methodology, the role of the FDP must be reorganized to be more in tune with the new situation, not only in the Republic of Panama, but throughout Latin America. This is a region where a process of reversion to civilian governments is under way, particularly due to the great complexity of economic and financial problems. In the particular case of the Republic of Panama—in view of the geographic problems—military life and the participation of the military in society are so broad that they will require continuous communication, discussion, and participation in the Republic's political life.

[Jimenez] Such a reorganization implies the reorganization of the top military leadership. It has been said it is necessary for those who have become eligible for retirement to indeed retire. However, perhaps a sudden move of this type could cause some degree of trauma within the organization itself. Should one consider this a programmed, progressive effort to take the required measures without traumatizing the institution with a sudden, drastic measure that could affect its command structure?

[Blandon] In this case, my position is that Law 20 should be enforced. It is the law that governs the FDP. We have to say there is a group of officers who must retire. I have not made any proposal—and I wish this to be clear in the minds of Panamanian officers—that runs contrary to the legally established procedures of the Republic of Panama. However, there is a group of officers whose time for retirement has passed. They should give way to the new generation that was trained by Torrijos. There is also a small group of officers who have become a political problem in the Republic of Panama. It will be necessary to make a political decision regarding them. They are a true problem. When I speak of the problem of the FDP, I do so with great sincerity. I believe—and I am not saying that there should be violent or abrupt changes—that it is necessary to breathe new life into the political leadership of the FDP, to give it new oxygen, so the cadre that has been trained to take over can assume control at this historic national moment.

Therefore, it is not a question of any traumatic change directed against the institution; it is a matter of having the leadership of the FDP itself take action within the established laws, in acknowledgment of a political reality. Who has to make these changes? The FDP itself. No one from outside can tell the FDP how it must make these changes, but it must be aware of a fact: If the future of the FDP is linked to the individual future of any one person, this would be a momentous political mistake. [passage omitted]

Galindo on Blandon Plan for Democratization

PA122125 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Washington—Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Panamanian businessman and former ambassador, yesterday said he is familiar with and regards as positive the plan for the democratization of Panama drafted by Jose I. Blandon, Panamanian general consul in New York.

During a telephone conversation from Miami with a news agency, Lewis added that Blandon's plan contemplates the lofty interest of the homeland and the survival of the Defense Forces as an apolitical and professional body at the orders of the civilian power, and provides an honorable means for General Manuel Antonio Noriega to step aside.

Lewis, one of Gen Noriega's leading opponents, said he met with Blandon several times. During their talks, Blandon made it clear that he was acting on Noriega's instructions and that Blandon seeks a formula for national understanding.

Chiari on Explusion of U.S. Reporter

PA131502 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Legislator Guillermo Cochez discusses the delay in the publication in the Official Gazette of the amnesty law that will allow the reopening of the closed communication media.

[Begin Cochez recording] The law that orders the opening of the closed media, the radio stations and newspapers, was approved by the Presidency on 5 January. This law known as Law No 2 of 1988, still has not been published in the Official Gazette. Tomorrow, 13 January, will be the 6th day within which the law stipulates an approved law must be published. Tomorrow a group of opposition legislators will visit the Official Gazette to investigate why this brief law, containing only four articles, has not been published. [end recording]

The delay in publication in the Official Gazette of the amnesty law that will allow the reopening of the closed media, and the expulsion of foreign reporters in the past few hours, are issues analyzed by Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, government and justice minister, in the following interview:

[Begin recording] [Chiari] This depends on the work the Official Gazette may have. The law has been sent to the Official Gazette and they should be publishing it very soon if it has not been published already. I do not know if it was published yesterday, I honestly do not know because I did not ask, but the law should be published any day now.

[Reporter] Has the government's intention of reopening the closed media changed in any way with the latest events in Panama?

[Chiari] No, no, no. It has not, it has not. I was surprised by a report that appeared in today's MIAMI HERALD that states that this reporter Lucia Newman was expelled from the country. This is totally false.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Julia Preston?

[Chiari] I know, but they refer to Newman first. This is totally false. She was banned from working as a reporter in Panama because she was not authorized. Her permit had expired. The other gentleman [REUTER's Tom Brown] said that measures would be taken to "slow down" [preceding words in English], in other words, to decrease the ability, no, not the ability but the efficiency of the Panama Canal, to pressure this government. This is a direct attack on constitutionally established powers and on Panama's financial system. We will not accept this type of journalism, this type of misinformation. That is why he was thrown out; I threw him out, not the Defense Forces. I ordered the cancellation of his immigration permit, and I take the responsibility for his expulsion. Regarding the reporter expelled on Sunday, this happened because she is misinforming abroad on what is happening in Panama. That is all.

[Reporter] When the closed media reopens, will there be censorship?

[Chiari] There will be no censorship as long as they maintain their composure and are responsible. [end recording]

Warrant Reportedly Issued for Legislator

PA121641 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1405 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] The Panamanian Human Rights Commission, through its president, Osvaldo Velasquez, has advised us that a warrant for the arrest of Mayin Correa has been issued. Osvaldo Velasquez, Eloy Alfaro, [name indistinct], and Marcos Alarcon were present when Mrs Correa was so informed. The following is a statement made over the telephone by Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission:

[Begin recording] Legislator Mayin Correa contacted the Panamanian Human Rights Commission by telephone. She called us because she could not leave her apartment. Her building was surrounded by members of the G-2. Mrs Correa asked us to find out what was going on.

A G-2 car has been stationed outside Mrs Correa's apartment building, and her car has been under constant surveillance. The G-2 had her car under surveillance in the building's parking lot where no unauthorized vehicle should be allowed.

We went to Mrs Correa's apartment house and, accompanied by two of our lawyers, Dr Alfaro and Dr Cupas, we tried to drive away with Mrs Correa in the car. We were stopped and Mrs Correa was advised that she was under arrest by order of a colonel whose name I cannot remember. Mrs Correa requested permission to park her car. Instead of doing this, she put the car in reverse and backed up approximately 50 meters. She got out of the car and ran for the front door of her building, where she sought refuge. She took the elevator to her apartment. In the meantime, we remained in the car. We later parked the vehicle.

In front of us and Legislator Marcos Alarcon, she was advised that a warrant for her arrest had been issued. She chose to seek refuge in her apartment instead of accompanying the members of the G-2 to the Modelo Jail, where political prisoners are held. [end recording]

Changes to U.S. Law 96-70 Criticized

PA121503 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Jan 88 p 7

["The People's Compass" column by Adolfo Benedetti: "Unmasking Uncle Sam"]

[Text] According to a report appearing in the 8 January 1988 issue of SPILLWAY, the Panama Canal Commission's newsletter, the U.S. Congress has introduced changes to Law 96-70, better known as the infamous Murphy Law, that have nothing to do with violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which affect the vital interests of our country.

Among the matters approved by the U.S. Congress are such things as catastrophic insurance, limits on compensation for damage caused to vessels transiting the canal, new assignments for commission members, rent for office space for this organization [the Panama Canal Commission] in the United States, and other low-level issues that do not even touch on the conflictive aspects of this vile legal instrument.

This means that far from respecting and applying the provisions of the Canal Treaties, as U.S. President Ronald Reagan and official State Department spokesmen have been hypocritically claiming, Congress, which is a partner in the joint administration of the interoceanic pathway, is evidently underestimating the constant requests made by Panama that this law be repealed once and for all because it hampers the correct implementation of current bilateral agreements.

This report, which appeared in the printed mouthpiece of the Canal Commission, stands as a categorical denial of euphemistic claims made by the Americans that they will comply with the decolonization calendar and gradual increase of the Panamanian presence in the former [Canal] Zone. One good way for them to show they will honor the treaties is to repeal Law 96-70, to which they just introduced unimportant changes.

This decision by the Yankee Congress is in keeping with a strategy designed by the Panamanian and American ultraright. Their destabilization plans are designed to replace the Torrijos-Carter Treaties with a new agreement delaying transfer of the canal to Panama and perpetuating the existence of U.S. military bases in Panama. Therefore, far from repealing the Murphy Law, as Panamanian parties have requested, Uncle Sam seeks to replace current trreaties with other ones that are favorable to his geopolitical interests.

However, in doing so he will clash with the iron resistance of a people who know who their historical adversaries are and how to destroy their plans.

Argentina

Rico Case Impact on Army Situation Reported

Sanctions Said Not Observed

PY132227 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2014 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Article by Federico Sivori "for the exclusive use of LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR, of Cordoba, ECOS DIARIOS of Necochea, and EL CHUBUT of Trewlew]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (DYN)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz has made a "shocking" disclosure: President Raul Alfonsin will leave the country if Angeloz is elected president in 1989.

If this disclosure is analyzed in conjunction with remarks made 1 day earlier by Vice President Victor Martinez (who also belongs to the UCR Cordoba line), that the Constitution should not be amended to satisfy the aspirations of one person (Alfonsin), then the picture becomes quite clear.

The issue is that the Cordoba leaders have fought for their rights. After being excluded from the talks and "deals" Alfonsin concluded recently with Buenos Aires Justicialist leader Antonio Cafiero, the Cordoba leaders seemed to have succeeded in averting any possible interference by Alfonsin in a future Angeloz-led UCR government. No one should deceive himself. This is the message the Cordoba governor and the Senate president have been conveying: If Alfonsin stays in the country, or if he is appointed prime minister, or if a constituent assembly is convened to create a post for Alfonsin, Angeloz' presidency would become an honorary post in which the president would have no power. It would be the same as when Campora was in Government House while Peron was in Gaspar Campos.

At the same time that these political developments take place, other, underground, issues shake the military sphere. In addition to the already existing tense atmosphere a new version states that several officers, who were present at Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's "self-release" and "self-reinstatement" in his rank, were allegedly severely sanctioned during the past few hours by orders of Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi.

The report goes on to state that some of these officers refused to observe the sanctions and that other officers, who had not been sanctioned, had expressed solidarity with the former by refusing to abandon the quarters at the usual time they leave for home, that is, at approximately 1400, today, Wednesday.

In sum, it has been a day full of political and military tension for President Raul Alfonsin's government.

'Rigorous' Custody Possible

PY132232 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM)—According to a report aired by Radio Mitre shortly after 1830, the Army General Staff is considering the possibility of again placing Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico under rigorous preventive imprisonment. A decision to this effect was reportedly made today at a meeting held by President Alfonsin with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena at the Olivos residence.

Radio Mitre added that the possible action against Rico has prompted several meetings in Army units.

Units Protest Rico Indictment

PY132340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—The imminent decision of the executive branch to instruct the military prosecutor in charge of the trial of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico to indict Rico for mutiny, which would mean his confinement in a military unit, may have been the reason for a number of "confinements to barracks" today in a sector of the Army as a demonstration of disagreement with the measure. This was the subject of urgent meetings at the Defense Ministry and the Olivos residence, where President Alfonsin resides.

Reports at mid-afternoon mentioned the 3d Regiment at La Tablada as the center of the confinements to barracks. A unit in the town of Magdalena joined the action of self-confinement to barracks.

An official source said that Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe have met to discuss the situation in the Army.

Sources from Government House indicated that Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia and Presidential Secretary General Carlos Becerra are "working on the issue" of the military situation, and talking with President Alfonsin at the Olivos residence.

The report about the "self-confinement to barracks" by officers who support Rico circulated as a rumor early this afternoon, when it became "imminent" that the civil court case files on Rico would be sent to the military courts.

These files reportedly contain instructions from the executive branch to the military prosecutor to classify the case as a "mutiny" instead of "insubordination." Therefore, Rico, who headed the Holy Week uprising, would eventually be returned to rigorous preventive custody at a military unit.

The reports indicate that some officers decided to remain in their units, which is similar to what other officers did last September in the 3d Regiment at Tablada to resist the replacement of their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer. At that time the officers did not leave the unit at noon when their work shift ended.

Minister Jaunarena met with President Alfonsin yesterday afternoon and this morning to define their position in the face of the internal situation in the Army.

High-level official sources reiterated that the government supports the leadership of Army Chief General Dante Caridi, while details of the "self-confinement to barracks" were being reported.

Government spokesmen indicated that Alfonsin and Jaunarena discussed issues related to "discipline" in the Army this morning.

Regarding the continued presence of officers at their worksites, La Rioja Province Governor Carlos Menem today said that in his province "nothing is going on. There is no movement that can be considered abnormal."

In remarks to Radio Mitre, Menem said: "A decision should be made to stop the state of deliberation within the Army."

The La Rioja governor added: "We can no longer have situations like this every time the government wants to take legal measures." There is a growing impression within government circles that this new outbreak of indiscipline "must be rapidly and ultimately solved."

Press reports released last weekend noted that there is a group of generals and colonels determined to restore discipline "within their own forces" to avoid another crisis like the one last Easter.

It has also been reported that many recently promoted generals and colonels are vacationing in Mar del Plata. It is believed that if the problem persists, these officers will be summoned by the Army chief of staff.

On 30 December, when Rico was placed under house arrest, some officers close to Rico engaged in what were clearly acts of indiscipline.

Military sources who are in disagreement with Rico have said Rico's departure from the Lemos Military School was "virtually a jailbreak" because he left before the official decision changing his imprisonment to house arrest had been made.

An unidentified officer of the 3d Regiment at La Tablada neither confirmed nor denied the rumor about confinement to barracks, and referred the reporter to the Army General Staff.

A metropolitan radio station today said, with reference to the attitude of Rico—just as rumors of confinement to barracks began circulating—that he was "playing tennis" at the Los Fresnos Country Club, in Bella Vista.

At the same time, the media reported that General Dante Caridi was meeting with the commanders of the Army, and that he would immediately drive to the Ministry of Defense to meet with the defense minister and the secretary of defense.

It is known that a strong contingent from the provincial police remains just outside the premises. Several officers, Rico supporters, have been standing guard inside the house since Rico arrived. The residence where Rico is being kept belongs to Guillermo Fernandez Gill, son of a former minister during the military government.

Rico Follower Gives Warning

PY140002 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—An alleged secretary, or assistant, of Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico this afternoon told journalists at the country house where Rico is residing "not to go away because hard times are coming."

Reporters had gathered around the "Los Fresnos" country house where Rico [words indistinct], according to reports of a metropolitan radio reporter, the figure of Rico playing tennis.

Shortly afterward, when reporters gathered around the entrance of the house, a Rico subordinate said "Do not get close, but do not go away because hard times are coming."

Caridi Says Situation 'Normal'

PY140102 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0031 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—A high-ranking source in the Defense Ministry tonight confirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico "may have decided to resist" any military court decision affecting his current legal situation and house arrest.

The source stated that "the press reports on Rico's decision" are in keeping with Defense Ministry information on the possibility of Rico's resisting the resolution of the military court that will try him for mutiny within the next few days.

The source stated that "according to the report submitted by General Caridi to the Defense Ministry, the situation is normal in all units throughout the country."

Army Releases Communique

PY140127 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0040 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—Just before 2100 the Army released the following communique:

"In view of press reports released today, the Army General Staff reports to the people:

"1. Because this is a period when many Army members are on leave, routine checks of security measures at military installations have been ordered.

"2. The Army chief of staff met with the defense minister to brief him on the results of his recent mission to Israel and to evaluate the most urgent problems of the institution.

"3. The proceedings with regard to the pretrial inquest being conducted by military judge No 22, Colonel Hugo Jose Beltramino, are normal; he has already received the case file from the civilian court and will decide what measures to adopt in the next few days.

"In order to avoid confusion and in view of some reports, it is made clear that there is no prosecutor in this case because it is still at the pretrial inquest stage.

"Therefore, the military judge is the only authority who can take measures affecting the legal status of the accused."

Bolivia

Paz Approves Government Party Reorganization

PY131913 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 12 Jan (EFE)—Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has approved an internal reorganization of the government party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), in an effort to reverse the political defeat his party suffered in the municipal elections last December.

Paz Estenssoro today met with the MNR National Executive Committee (CEN) to approve a program of activities meant to "democratize the party." After the meeting, which took place at Government House, MNR Executive Secretary Javier Campero Paz said that Paz Estenssoro considers a "party modernization" necessary in order to obtain better results in the 1989 elections.

Campero explained that next week several MNR delegations will visit different districts to undertake a "deep reorganization and democratization" of the party and "update it according to the present situation and current needs."

Campero said the reorganization will end in a convention next October, at which the candidates for the next national elections will be elected.

According to official reports, President Paz Estenssoro will not run again in 1989.

Official Notes Argentine Gas Payment Delay

PY121438 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0408 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jan (EFE)—Bolivian Central Bank President Javier Nogales today said Argentina's delay in paying for the purchase of [Bolivian] natural gas is pressing the Bolivian Government and the Bolivian Treasury.

Nogales said Argentina failed again in December to make a payment on its $60-million debt, and this has caused problems for the Bolivian Treasury.

Nogales said: "Argentina will have to find a way to settle the gas debt; if not, there will be no way to overcome the problem."

Nogales added that the Bolivian Foreign Ministry and the Bolivian Central Bank are currently negotiating with the government of Raul Alfonsin to achieve the fulfillment of an agreement on debt payments that was signed in September 1987.

Nogales said: "It serves no purpose for the country to continue making a huge sacrifice if the results of this sacrifice are then used for supplementary credits that Bolivia must grant Argentina for the latter to finance its delayed payments."

Envoy to Colombia Linked to Drug Smuggling

PY120309 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has stated that the Bolivian Government will request the Colombian Government to explain an accusation against its ambassador to Colombia, who is allegedly linked with illegal (narcotics) smuggling.

Bedregal said a Colombian newspaper is trying to involve several diplomats in illegal affairs. He said that due to this situation, the appropriate charges will be filed in order to have the pressures and accusations investigated.

Chile

GATT Representative Protests U.S. Decision

PY140238 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Today in Geneva, the Chilean representative to the GATT, Fernando Morales, in Geneva accused the United States of excluding Chile and other countries from its Generalized System of Preferences.

Morales said that in order to justify the measure taken against Chile, the United States accuses our country of violating labor laws, a sphere in which the GATT has no jurisdiction. The Chilean representative went on to say that the United States wants the GATT to take into account the living conditions of the workers, but the great difference between workers of industrialized countries and workers of the Third World represents a distorting factor for world trade. According to Washington, workers from developing countries work harder and earn less so that the prices of their exportable foods can be more competitive.

Morales said that if these exclusions go into effect the United States will violate GATT regulations, thus causing unrest, which by no means will contribute to the success of the negotiations that will take place in Uruguay.

Morales said the United States has tried to include the subject of labor laws in the agenda of the meeting but this attempt has met the opposition of all parties involved.

The Chilean representative ended by noting that Chile continues to abide by international labor law, which falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the ILO, and urged the U.S. Government not to implement this decision, which will be harmful for Chile and other countries.

Gallup Poll Shows Support for Government

PY140154 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The latest Gallup poll reveals clear support for the government in the upcoming plebiscite. This afternoon the Santiago daily LA SEGUNDA published part of the poll.

Asked whether they would vote yes, and in favor of the government candidate, or no, that is, against the government candidate, during the plebisicte, 39.4 percent, which at a national level represents approximately 3,210,548 persons, said they would vote in favor, while 26.6 percent, which represents approximately 2,167,528 persons, said they would vote no.

According to the poll 32.8 percent, which represents 2,672,741 persons, still have not made up their mind about the plebiscite, while 1.2 percent chose not to give their opinion on the plebisicte.

Among those who support the government's candidate 44.3 percent are women.

A total of 45.3 percent of those questioned voiced support for what the government has done for the country, and only 29.4 percent said they were not sure whether they approved what the head of state has done for Chile.

Official Says 'Only 350' Banned From Returning

PY130121 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Ricardo Martens, head of the Interior Ministry's advisory commission on human rights affairs, has asserted that only 350 persons are prohibited from returning to Chile and that any contradictory information is false.

Martens disclosed this information at the end of a meeting of the commission with Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez to report on their activities during 1987.

Attorney Martens said the problem of persons living in exile is in the hands of the Interior Ministry and, with the exception of the 350 persons who are prohibited from returning to Chile, the rest may return, although they may not wish to do so right now.

Bomb Explodes on Subway; Causes Damage

PY111805 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] A bomb that exploded in a subway car caused 3 million pesos in damage, and will take 2 months to repair. According to Carlos Novoa, public relations secretary for the Metropolitan Railroad Service, the bomb was planted by terrorists on the seat of the first car of the metropolitan train. It exploded inside the tunnel of the San Pablo station as the train engineer was walking into another car. The motor, cabin, seats, lights, and body structure of the car were damaged.

Union Leader's House Bombed in San Pedro

PY121845 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Report from Concepcion]

[Text] Early this morning unidentified individuals detonated a bomb at the house of National Coal Enterprise [ENACAR] trade union leader Jose Dominguez Mendoza in the town of San Pedro near Concepcion. The explosion caused only minor damage, breaking two windows.

According to the police report, the bomb, which, in the opinion of a bomb expert, comprised 0.5 kg of (?samsonite), was detonated at the gate of Dominguez Mendoza's garage at 26 Las Claritas Street. The explosion shattered two 0.8-by-1.2-meter windows. No victims were reported and the attack was reported to the Coronel criminal court.

Briefs

Mineral Exports, Investments

Santiago de Chile, 9 Jan (EFE)—The Mining Ministry today reported that in 1987 mineral exports amounted to $3 billion, 22 percent more than in 1986. Copper production reached a record high level of 1.410 million tons. Oil production dropped 7 percent. Mining Minister Samuel Lira said investments in oil exploration will exceed $22 million in 1988. Foreign investments of nearly $364 million were authorized in 1987, but only $125 million actually materialized. [Excerpt] *[Madrid EFE in Spanish 1905 GMT 9 Jan 88 PY]*

Colombia

Minister on Extradition Treaty With U.S.

PA121729 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—During a special news conference with foreign newsmen, the Colombian justice minister rejected statements by the attorney general and reaffirmed that Colombia has the political will to extradite drug traffickers to the United States.

During an interview with Caracol reporters, Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos said the government was deceiving public opinion because of the government's position on extradition, which apparently is to show no interest in enforcing this law.

Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra said that if the United States agrees to validate the extradition treaty signed with Colombia in 1888, Colombia could use this treaty to extradite drug traffickers requested by the U.S. courts.

Low Murtra added that Colombia could even try to enforce the Montevideo multilateral treaty signed in 1939. He explained, however, that the Colombian Foreign Relations Ministry has not declared this treaty valid. In addition, Low Murtra said, the United States has some reservations about the Montevideo treaty.

The justice minister admitted that the government wants the Supreme Court of Justice to draw up its own ruling and to agree with the extradition of Colombians, as stipulated by the 1979 and 1939 treaties. By ruling that the 1888 treaty, which states that the opinion of the Supreme Court is not required, is still valid, the Supreme Court would then allow the government to extradite Colombians without consulting the Supreme Court of Justice.

UP Reiterates Demands; Repudiates Killing

PA120002 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1602 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 11 Jan (DPA)—The Patriotic Union (UP), a Colombian leftist movement, today reiterated to the government its demand for guarantees and repudiated the most recent killing of one of its leaders, Arcesio Valencia, a deputy from the southwestern intendency of Caqueta.

Valencia was assassinated yesterday in the city of Puerto Rico, Caqueta, by men who went into his residence and shot him several times. The victim, who also had a seat on the Puerto Rico Municipal Council, was one of the main UP leaders in that region. [passage omitted]

Terrorist Groups Blow Up Oil Pipeline

PA140255 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Terrorist groups have again attacked the Cana-Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. The pipeline was simultaneously blown up at two points, near the 458-and 530-km markings. It was reported that at least 15,000 barrels of crude oil have spilled. Everything seems to indicate that the damage done to the ecological system is very serious. The oil spill is very large and is approaching El Carmen Creek, which flows into the Simana River, which in turn flows into the Magdalena River.

Paraguay

Colorado Deputy Criticizes Elliott Abrams

PY131827 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Jan 88 p 8

[Text] Deputy Martin Chiola, Colorado Party political secretary, has described as "totally false, aggressive, and offensive to our sovereignty" the report issued by the U.S. State Department about human rights violations in Paraguay, Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Chile.

Chiola referred in particular to Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and said that "this gentleman has for some time borne a grudge against our country's political situation and participation by the citizens."

Regarding the U.S. State Department report which states that elections in Paraguay are unimportant, Chiola said "This is an absolutely mistaken opinion. How can an election in which three political parties will participate, and in which all the Paraguayan citizenry will vote for the candidate they prefer, be unimportant?"

The Colorado Party political secretary also denied that the Colorado Party faction favoring political change has been pushed aside by the Colorado Party extremist sector that "favors the military dictatorship." He added, "Colorados are witnesses that such things do not happen. Three movements were represented in the party executive board elections. Two of them stayed in the struggle and one withdrew. The will of the majority of the Colorado representatives was respected."

The U.S. State Department document described as a negative "the brutality of Stroessner's police."

Regarding this statement, Chiola said: "The police have complied with their duty which, according to the law, is to maintain order and ensure that the citizens' rights and freedom are respected. The police have thus acted to prevent any kind of disorder or conflict among the citizenry."

In conclusion, Chiola pointed out that Abrams "is terribly wrong to meddle in our internal affairs, especially concerning matters of political parties which form the basis of our democracy. We will solve our problems on our own, we will maintain the principle of self-determination, and we will make our political sovereignty respected, come what may."

Commentary Urges Abrams Visit

PY131845 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish
13 Jan 88 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Not Entirely a Hypothetical Hypothesis"]

[Text] Let us suppose, just suppose, that Mr Abrams, who is in charge of the Latin American affairs desk at the U.S. State Department, unexpectedly turns up in Paraguari next Saturday as an objective and open-minded onlooker; that is, someone free from the burden of the sophisticated disinformation apparatus with which he has been overwhelmed and deceived in his good faith. He would see a huge crowd, a mass of people with a red [the Colorado Party identifying color] torch, shouting hurrahs. He would then be astonished because when the truth begins to wipe out lies, astonishment follows. He would then ask where all the people come from and any humble local resident would answer him by saying that the people come from a vast area of Republican influence in Paraguari and that the crowd, for reasons of distance, time, and transportation limitations, is only a very small portion of the mass of people that Coloradoism can mobilize in its support for President Stroessner. However, prejudices would remain. He would think that we were orchestrating a huge apparatus, as the ones orchestrated for Catherine the Great in Russia to show a happy people. He would then search the people's faces, hoping to see the contorted face of a discontented peasant; the deeply buried eye sockets of starving mothers; the swollen bellies of malnourished children; the grim look of those who have children, parents, or brothers in concentration camps; the vacant look of muzzled people; the sad resignation of men without hope, or of an illiterate young man sunk in ignorance. He would see nothing of the sort. He would not see anyone attending at bayonet point, sturdy henchmen seizing radios and independent dailies, or masters of ceremony monitoring predigested, fixed, and memorized hurrahs. At that point, he would begin to suspect that someone had told him a big tale. So many people, so much enthusiasm, and so many smiles could not be seen under an "authoritarian regime violating human rights." So many civilians participating enthusiastically could not be commensurate with a "military regime." However, he would still keep in his mind a grain of disbelief and distrust. He would turn on his radio and listen to a radio station that, instead of reporting the attendance of 50,000 citizens, reports for 3,000 citizens who disagree with those 50,000. This would not seem logical to him, either here or in the United States, where the people, not an "elite" or a discontented minority, play a leading role in democracy. Then, as a last recourse, so as not to lose faith in his good friends who have given him such poor information, he would wait for the speech by General Stroessner, the constitutional president and presidential candidate, who is able to gather 50,000 citizens—from a total population of 3 million—in a city that is much smaller than eight or ten other cities. By that time, he would be shocked because he would not see on the rostrum a demagogue who makes promises here and there or a passionate fomenter of hatred and curses but a "carai" [Guarani word for mister, lord] (later, the meaning will be explained to him) of martial elegance, soft-spoken, of firm ideas, capable of communicating with his people. He would see a carai who would speak about the importance of peace and the importance of liberty in a time of peace, about democracy in liberty, about liberty as the driving force for development, and about development as a tool to improve the people's welfare. Then, if the unexpected visitor is honest, he would have his "classified files" burned and would learn to simply believe his eyes.

Liberal Party Denies Election 'Arrangement'

PY081248 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
7 Jan 88 p 8

[Excerpt] High officials of the Liberal Party [PL] said, during a news conference this morning, that "a discrediting campaign is being conducted by bad citizens, who are members of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA]."

PL leaders Carlos Ferreira Ibarra and Joaquin Burgos denied the accusations made by PLRA leader Miguel Abdon Saguier to the effect that an arrangement has been made for the upcoming February elections and also denied that they have received money with which to conduct the electoral campaign.

The Liberal Party released a communique which states that "none of the party's executive board, or regular, members have received any money from either official, private, or foreign organizations. Those who are pretending to be paragons of ethical principles and patriotism are the ones who are shamelessly receiving foreign aid. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Government Announces President To Visit USSR

PA072135 Paris AFP in Spanish 1215 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Jan (AFP)—Foreign Ministry sources reported today that Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti will visit the USSR in March.

Sanguinetti has thus responded to an invitation made by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

The same sources, who have been cited on the first page of the progovernment newspaper EL DIA, added that Gorbachev will return Sanguinetti's visit when he tours Latin America during the 2d half of 1988.

Sanguinetti's trip will include Moscow and probably Leningrad. He will be the first Uruguayan president to visit the USSR, and Gorbachev will be first Soviet leader to visit Montevideo.

The sources added that before Sanguinetti arrives in Moscow on 1 March, Soviet television will broadcast a special program on Uruguay that will cover "political, social, cultural, and historical aspects to the greatest extent possible."

Further on Gorbachev Visit

PY131816 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Foreign Ministries of Uruguay and the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev will visit our country possibly in October this year. He will thus repay the visit which Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will make to Moscow in March. Gorbachev will also visit Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, and possibly Venezuela.

Minister on Upcoming Presidential Summit

PY131812 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has said that no new agreements will be signed during the upcoming summit of the presidents of Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil. He said that they will thoroughly study the current agreements, and did not rule out, however, the possibility that they could update the existing trade, cultural, and technological cooperation agreements.

Regarding his possible candidacy for president of the IDB, Minister Iglesias said that this possibility is being considered and it will be decided by the government.

He declined to comment on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Taiwan. He said that he did not wish to add anything to what President Sanguinetti had recently said in a news conference.

When asked about the summit of the three presidents, Iglesias answered:

[Begin recording] [Iglesias] Well, the three foreign ministries are in contact, preparing for the summit. As you know, relations among the three countries will be discussed, mainly trade relations, and the progress attained by the mutual cooperation efforts which started 2 years ago and are developing well.

[Reporter] Minister, will the presidents simply discuss the existing agreements, or will they sign new agreements?

[Iglesias] No, no new agreement is foreseen. They will simply update and review the existing ones. The presidents will study other areas in which cooperation is possible.

[Reporter] Argentina and Brazil will use the same currency for their trade. It is called the gaucho. Will it be decided at the summit that Uruguay will use this currency?

[Iglesias] Yes, we know that Argentina and Brazil will use that currency, so of course we will discuss this at the summit. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Suriname

Arron Criticizes Former Netherlands Minister

FL071747 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The chairman of the National Party of Suriname, Henck Arron, has criticized recent pronouncements made by former Dutch Minister for Development and Cooperation Jan Pronk in an interview with the DE WARE TIDJ newspaper.

Pronk had said that the Arron administration had blackmailed the Dutch Government during negotiations on the development treaty in 1975. Our own words were used against us while we were blackmailed with our own political views, said Pronk.

According to Arron, during the negotiations, Suriname had demanded that it should not be treated in the way Holland treats other countries with which it has relationships of development cooperation.

Former Minister Pronk reproached the 1975 administration of Prime Minister Henck Arron that it did not realize social projects, among which is the social security fund.

Arron now says that if the Dutch Government does not allow Suriname to determine its own future, it will get problems during negotiations on the resumption of the development cooperation.

Groups Protest Fishing Deal With Venezuela

FL301751 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers yesterday decided that the National Assembly, via the minister of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries, must be informed by letter about the controversial high-powered fishing boats. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries Minister Cornelius Ardjosomito told our newsroom this morning that the information will be sent to the National Assembly today or tomorrow.

Last week Wednesday, Assembly member (Rufus Noymer) called upon the government to get information on the high-powered fishing boats to the National Assembly so that it could be studied. He made the request following reports in the local press that the government has intentions of allowing the Venezuelan company (Intesmar) to fish with these high-powered boats in Surinamese waters. The organization of Surinamese fishermen and other fish organizations firmly protested against this because of the harmful effect on our fish population and the future of the fishermen.

Brunswijk Ends Cease-Fire; Engages in Actions

Army Patrol Attacked

FL071819 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The terrorist gang of Ronny Brunswijk yesterday morning at 5:30 o'clock ended the cease-fire it had announced after the November 25th general elections by attacking an army patrol at Patamacca.

Brunswijk had announced the cease-fire to last until January 1st to, as he put it, give the leaders of the Front for Democracy and Development the opportunity to contact him.

The national Army yesterday repelled the attack. An Army spokesman yesterday said that the large group of terrorists which attacked the Army patrol was led by white mercenaries and the gang was armed with automatic weapons and rifles.

It is not known if there were any casualties during the attack.

Yesterday, the military authorities informed the cadres of the Army about the attack in Patamacca.

Kidnapped Hostages Released

FL071944 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The three loggers who were taken hostage by the Brunswijk gang, the (Panwadi) brothers—[name indistinct] and Dennis—and the other person whose name has been given as (Nada), have been released after 3 weeks in captivity.

They were kept by the gang since December 11th last year on suspicion of carrying out espionage work for the National Army.

The loggers were kidnapped in the Patamacca area and moved to Langatabbetje. However, because of the low level of the water there, they were transported to Stoelmanseiland 1 week afterward. Gang leader Ronny Brunswijk then informed them that they could leave for Paramaribo via Cayenne, French Guiana.

After their return, the loggers told the National Army that on Stoelmanseiland they have seen (Ed Josephson), Reverend (Billinger), and a white mercenary named Pancho. According to the three hostages, Brunswijk offered them to work for him in the so-called liberated areas in the eastern region of the country. They also said that Brunswijk still has his headquarters at Stoelmanseiland and travels to and from French Guiana.